

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An extrudable and curable insulating composition that is resistant to oil and to propagating fire, for the cable-making industry, the composition comprising:

a basic mixture; and

an amino-silane for curing said basic mixture,

wherein said basic mixture contains chlorinated polyolefin, and for 100 parts by weight of said chlorinated polyolefin, 100 to 250 parts by weight of a mineral filler containing moisture and an agent for treating said mineral filler by reacting with the moisture contained therein.

2. (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1, wherein said agent for treating said filler is a silane compound that is inert relative to said chlorinated polyolefin.

3. (original): A composition according to claim 2, including 0.5 to 5 parts by weight of said treatment agent per 100 parts by weight of said filler.

4. (original): A composition according to claim 1, wherein said filler is based on chalk.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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5. (original): A composition according to claim 1, wherein said filler includes an antimony compound, constituting 2% to 10% of the total weight of said filler.

6. (original): A composition according to claim 1, including an auxiliary polymeric compound for temporarily retaining and diffusing at least said amino-silane throughout said composition.

7. (original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein said auxiliary polymeric compound is selected from polymers suitable for containing at least said amino-silane while remaining in solid form, and those suitable for adsorbing at least said amino-silane almost instantaneously.

8. (original): A composition according to claim 1, wherein its content by weight of said filler is 1.4 to 1.7 times its content by weight of the chlorinated polyolefin.

9. (currently amended): A method of preparing an extrudable and curable insulating composition that is resistant to oil and to propagating fire, for the cable-making industry, the composition including a basic mixture, and an amino-silane for curing said basic mixture, wherein said basic mixture contains chlorinated polyolefin, and for 100 parts by weight of said chlorinated polyolefin, 100 to 250 parts by weight of a mineral filler containing moisture and an agent for treating said mineral filler by reacting with the moisture contained therein, comprising:

mixing the following together while heating them: said chlorinated polyolefin, said filler, and said treatment agent, thereby obtaining said basic mixture which has been made uniform, transforming said basic mixture, adding said amino-silane to said transformed basic mixture during extrusion of said basic mixture.

10. (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein said basic mixture is made at a temperature rising to about 130°C.

11. (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, wherein said transformed basic mixture and a solid auxiliary polymeric compound containing said amino-silane are mixed in an extruder hopper.

12. (previously presented): A method according to claim 9, wherein said amino-silane is injected onto said transformed basic mixture having an auxiliary polymeric compound added thereto which adsorbs said injected amino-silane almost instantaneously, in an extruder hopper.

13. (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein said composition is extruded at a temperature in the range 90°C to 145°C.